

centre of it a large Irish potato, nicely peeled and carefully covered over with butter.

The Mahometans considered silk unclean, from its being produced by a worm. Hence it was decided that a person wearing a garment made entirely of silk could not law-

miles long by one mile wide and is fed by a canal that taps Susan river.

Mr. M. Fuller, a chicken fancier of Asheville, has struck a bonanza in a hen that lays six eggs per day. Mr. Fuller first noticed this enterprising spirit in his fowl about three weeks ago, and at first he would not believe it. He was sure, however, that he put the hen in a separate coop, and at night the customary six eggs were waiting for him.

Howardsville, Col., has a curiosity in the shape of an ice mine. The mine is owned by parties who in the earlier days ran a tunnel through the frozen ground and struck a spring beyond. As the water flowed out of the tunnel it freezes, and the tunnel slowly filled to the roof with pure ice. It has long supplied ice for the town, and never thaws, winter or summer.

John B. Parshall, a compositor in the *Delhi, N. Y., Gazette* office, recently set up the notice of three golden weddings. He picked up the marriage notices of the same couples 50 years ago—a remarkable coincidence.

One cause assumed for the healthfulness of Chinese cities is, that the people boil all water intended for drinking. They never drink cold water. The national beverage, tea, is always "on tap," even in the houses of the poor. Every little hamlet, too, has a shop where hot water can be bought for a trifling sum at any hour of the day or night.

The first poet laureate was John Kay in

the reign of Edward IV. The only perquisites of the office are \$500 a year and a quantity of wine taken from the royal store.

Frank Jackson of Sampsonville, Erie county, Penn., can place his arms against a wall and reach 7 feet 11 inches. He is 5 feet 10 inches tall. Frank Jackson is 6 feet 10 inches high. The best reach on record is seven feet.

A colored woman called at the Brunswick, Me., telegraph office, and had dictated the following message to her son: "Are you dead? Answer to your loving mother, I am not dead. I am here." The telegraph operator asked her, but it was sent. The next day the answer came back. It said: "Not dead, but alive. Will let you know when I die."

Filial piety in China does not die out with the advance of Western ideas. A

Provincial governor recently petitioned the legislature for a law to protect the health of his grandmother, which required his personal attention during the rest of her life.

W. H. H. Stewart & Son, of Bartow, Ga., have on exhibition at their pharmacy a chicken with four well-developed feet and four long, four winged. The chicken has only one head. This wonderful freak of nature was sent in to them by J. R. Perry from the country.

The Plinkes had a big-pow-wow near Wadsworth, Nev., that lasted all of last week.

On Monday morning he selected a coffin, made arrangements for a funeral home, and at 10 o'clock he seated himself in a rocking chair and in three minutes was dead. The doctors say death was caused by heart disease.

An Eiffel tower may rise in Germany. The Bavarian government proposes to build one near Starnberg lake as a monument to the late emperor.

Mark Twain and secondarily as an observatory.

An immense squid or devil fish, which was recently stranded upon Achilli island, off the west coast of Mayo, Ire., had arms which measured 35 feet in length, and the body measured 40 feet in circumference. Some of the short arms were four feet in circumference.

Marvellous powers of vision have given John Thomas Helsop of Birmingham, Eng., the name of "The Living Microscope." He can distinguish the animal life in water and he does not drink water.

Rev. John Vance, a Methodist minister, 30 years of age, and Mrs. Cynthia Wood, 32 years of age, and mother of a member of the church, were married recently in Mon-

They were lovers when the century was young, but their parents forbade their match and they parted.

They met again in London for good, and the century was old. They were in the leather. Some shops are stocked with fancy articles made from the skins of all sorts of beasts, reptiles and fishes, including pelican skins, lion and panther skins, fish skins, monkey skins and snake skins, etc.

Our postage stamps are counted no less than times during the process of manufacture.

Zeus and George Marx, at Hancock, N.Y., married two sisters simultaneously, and last week, just as simultaneously, the two sisters obtained divorce from the brothers for

It is said that some genius has invented an electric recorder which may be attached to the head of a person which infallibly and correctly record the exact amount of gas consumed, no matter what may be the vagaries of the meter itself.

Between the Ural and the Okhotsk seas there is a spot half as large as the State of Michigan, which is frozen ground to the north and is so cold that it has never thawed out since the world was created, and probably never will, and even if it should nobody would have any use for it.

It has become the fashion in Chicago for men to buy their wives' bonnets. The mil-

A successful English physician of 40 dine at 7.30 every evening and goes to bed at 9. He rises at 2 in the morning, reads two hours and writes three hours. He eats breakfast at 7 and goes to bed again, rising at 11.30. His profession brings him to the clinic at 7 in the evening. The amount and quality of his work are wonderful, and within five years he has risen to a foremost place in the profession.

The mathematical field has recently been at work upon a calculation of the work performed by the human heart. His calculations are finished, and the work is

part in milk and beats. It is based upon the presumption that the heart beats 60 times each minute and throws blood nine feet. Computed thus, the mileage of the heart in a lifetime of man would be 207 yards per minute, 7 miles per hour, 168 miles per day, 61,320 miles per year, or 292,400 miles a lifetime of 70 years.

The statement in an Eastern magazine, that "butterflies have gone to the remarkable height of 800 feet in the Alps," has elicited the following reply from a letter to the *Scientific American*, which he pronounces the trip not at all remarkable. He writes that last summer he encountered numerous butterflies on a peak

Prof. Forest of Breslau states that 300 cases have come under his notice in which the eyesight has been affected by the disturbance of the circulation caused by wearing tight collars.

BACKLOG DREAMS.

[Frank Dempster Sherman in May Scribner.]

Above the glowing embers
I hear the backlog sing
The music it remembers
Of some remembered Spring;
Back to the branch foregone
Return the Joazeul choir.

And in the chimney-waken
A melody of fire.
The sparks' red blossoms glisten
And flash their glances brief
At us who lean and listen
And dream I hear a leaf
On some May-morning sunny,
Low lapsing in the tree,—
Or in his haunt of honey,
A bloom-enamored bee:
Or 'tis the soft wind blowing
Its sweetness from the South,—
A fragrant kiss bestowing
Upon the rose's mouth.

And ere the spell is broken,
Or darkness o'er it slips,
I see the scarlet token
Of love upon her lips.

Without, the wind is bitter.
The snowflakes all the nights;
Within the embers glitter
And gild the room with lights;
And in the fireplace gleaming
The backlog sings away,
And mingles all my dreaming
With birds, and blooms, and May!

How William Got His Name.

The name William was not at first given children: it was a name conferred upon man as a reward of merit.

When the ancient Germans fought with the Romans, the Germans were armed only with light weapons, swords, spears, shields, etc., and if a German killed on the field a full-armed Roman, wearing a gilded helmet, the helmet was set on the head of the brave German who had slain its owner, or who ever after was known as Gildhelme, or, as we would say, Golden Helmet.

Among the Franks the name was Guillelme, and with the French, Guilheume. Afterward Guillaume, and with the Latin-speaking nations, Gulielmus. Finally, the French Guillaume became Wuillaume, and soon evolved into William.

